

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

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Selmann specifically requested funds to cover the wages of skilled workers whose time was "wasted" showing Soviet and satellite visitors around the Ministry's enterprises.

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b. a meeting was held to discuss the question. Present were representatives of the Ministry for Finance, the State Planning Commission, the Technical-Scientific Cooperation, and the Ministry for Heavy Industry. Streit (fau) of the Technical-Scientific Cooperation reported to the gathering that the East German Government provided 600,000 DME per year for the expenses of visitors under the program. The State Planning Commission insisted that all other expenses be borne by the enterprises visited.

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c. The Ministry for Heavy Industry objected to this position on the grounds that it was the most heavily penalized institution under the program. The meeting finally agreed on a compromise solution whereby no changes would be made in 1955, but in 1956 the 600,000 DME available would be administered by the Ministry for Heavy Industry itself. One-third of that sum would then probably go into the Ministry's own budget to cover its expenses. The State Planning Commission also agreed to make an additional 1,500,000 DME available for all ministries whose employees' time was so lost. The Ministry for Heavy Industry expects to receive approximately 600,000 DME of this amount as well.

2. Rudolf Steinwand, Deputy Minister for Heavy Industry, and Willi Rumpf, State Secretary in the Ministry for Finance, have returned to East Germany after an extended trip to Moscow. The State Planning Commission is allegedly attempting to secure Steinwand's services now that he has returned, but Selmann is reluctant to agree to a transfer. Steinwand is considered to be an exceptionally able official and Selmann would prefer to release Deputy Minister Max Friedman who is rather weak.

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3. 800 tons of zinc arrived in East Germany from Poland in August 1955. It is alleged that this shipment, as well as deliveries of copper and other goods from the satellite countries, occurred after East Germany made arrangements to settle her debts with those countries.

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